

TITLE OF INVENTION

Corner Guard For Covering A Wall Corner Junction

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] Not Applicable

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

[0002] Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of Invention

[0003] This invention pertains to a corner guard for covering a corner of a baseboard. More particularly, this invention pertains to a corner guard installed over tiles attached proximal of a corner junction of side walls.

2. Description of the Related Art

[0004] In congested indoor areas, such as in commercial facilities including restaurants and convention meeting facilities, ceramic or plastic tiles are positioned to cover corner junctions along the baseboard of the intersection of walls. For areas experiencing a significant amount of cart traffic, the ceramic or plastic tiles are bumped by cart wheels and cart

corners and are readily damaged if not protected. Once damaged, the tiles covering the corner junction will crack and/or separate from the wall, thereby allowing adjacent tiles to separate from the wall and allowing further damage to the baseboard and corner junction of side walls until repaired.

[0005] Prior art tiles are configured to fit in abutting end-to-end or overlapping relationship along the exterior base of a wall surface. Prior art tiles are positioned to cover a corner junction of the intersection of walls and typically have a base portion resting on a floor surface or on carpet extended proximal to the corner junction. Prior art tiles are frequently bumped by cart wheels to create cracks therein, and/or become separated from the corner junction by repeated impacts from cart wheels and cart corners. When prior art tiles separate from the corner junction, the adjacent tiles are disrupted in a domino-type effect and are dislodged from covering the baseboard of either or both walls adjacent the corner junction.

[0006] A need exists for a protective corner guard configured to cover tiles attached to and extending outwardly from a wall corner junction while providing a corner guard that does not detract from the aesthetics of the tiles. A need also exists for providing a protective corner guard constructed of a resilient material sufficient to deflect repetitive impacts from cart wheels

and cart side supports, and/or other impacts directed against a corner junction of the adjacent walls in a commercial facility.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] According to one embodiment of the present invention, a corner guard is disclosed for providing protection for tiles attached proximal of a corner junction formed by an intersection of side walls. The corner guard further provides protection for the wall edges above the corner junction. The corner guard includes an edge guard bent to cover a portion of the intersection of side walls proximally above the corner junction. The edge guard includes a base end configured to be releasably attached to each side wall proximal of the corner junction. A ledge is formed integrally with the edge guard base end, and the ledge is extended a sufficient width laterally for protective covering of an upper portion of the corner tiles. A tile cover integrally depends from the ledge and is sized and angled to substantially cover the tiles attached proximal of the corner junction. The tile cover protects the corner tiles by deflecting impacts directed toward the corner tiles, thereby minimizing tile damage and maximizing the useful life of the tiles. The edge guard is attached to cover the intersecting surfaces side walls above the corner junction, thereby protecting the covered edges from impacts by cart side supports pushed against the intersecting side walls above tiles covering the corner junction of the walls.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] The above-mentioned features of the invention will become more clearly understood from the following detailed description of the invention read together with the drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a front perspective view of a corner guard of the present invention, illustrating installation over a corner junction of tiles positioned at an intersection of side walls;

Figure 2 is a front perspective view of the corner guard of Figure 1, illustrating an upper portion, a ledge, and a lower portion of the corner guard;

Figure 3 is a top view of Figure 2, illustrating the upper portion including an edge guard separated by a ledge integrally connecting to a lower portion including a tile cover extending below the ledge;

Figure 4 is a side view of Figure 2, illustrating a first side of the tile cover and edge guard;

Figure 5 is a side view of Figure 2, illustrating a second side of the tile cover and edge guard; and

Figure 6 is a section view along 6-6 of Figure 1, illustrating a section

of an installed corner guard covering tiles attached proximal of the corner junction and covering side wall edge surfaces above the tiles.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5 **[0009]** A corner guard **10** is disclosed for providing protection for tiles **12, 14** attached proximal of a corner junction **12** formed by an intersection of side walls **20, 20'**. Protection of the tiles **14, 16** attached proximal of each corner junction **12** in a commercial facility such as a restaurant is needed to minimize damage and separation of the tiles **14, 16** attached at the corner junctions **12** in areas where carts may frequently impact the tiles **14, 16**.

10 **[0010]** A typical wall corner intersection is illustrated at **18** in Figure 1. For installation of plasterboard serving as walls for commercial facility rooms and hallways, each corner intersection **18** will have a length of a metal or a plastic edge strip **18'** attached to cover the abutting corner edges of the side walls **20, 20'** from the floor to the ceiling. The edge strip **18'** provides a smooth corner edge for caulking and for applying paint or wallpaper thereon. It is preferable that the abutting wall corner edges are protected by a barrier of sufficient height to minimize the chipping and tearing of the wall corner edges due to repetitive impacts from carts.

15 **[0011]** The corner guard **10** includes the following features that

provide a readily installed protective cover for tiles attached proximal of the corner junction **12**. A cover guard upper portion includes an edge guard **30** that is bent in an angled configuration to form sides **32, 34** of sufficient width to cover a portion of the intersection **18** of the side walls **20, 20'** above the corner junction **12**. A base of the edge guard **30** is extended laterally to form a ledge that extends a selected width to a tile cover **22** that is integrally depending from the ledge. The width of the ledge includes first and second surfaces **24", 26"** that are laterally extended from each respective base end **32', 34'** of the edge guard **30**. The tile cover **22** includes side segments **24, 26** that are angled apart from each other and are sized to substantially cover the respective tiles **14, 16** adjacently positioned at the intersection **18**. The tile cover **22** provides a protective cover for the tiles **14, 16** in order to deflect impacts directed toward the tiles by a cart wheel **50** of a portable cart typically utilized in a restaurant or a convention meeting facility. Upon proper installation of a corner guard **10** with the tile cover **22** covering each corner tile **14, 16**, recurring impacts from cart wheels and cart corners are deflected away from the tiles **14, 16**, thereby minimizing damage to the tiles, minimizing separation of tiles from each corner junction **12**, and maximizing the useful life of the tiles **14, 16**.

[0012] Additional benefits of the configuration of the edge guard **30** include the following elements as illustrated for the first and second

attaching members **32, 34** in Figures 2 - 5. The attaching members **32, 34** are bent along a midline **36** to provide an angle of separation **28** that allows each attaching member **32, 34** to cover respective corner edges of walls **20, 20'**, thereby protecting each corner edge from cart impacts directed toward a lower portion of the intersection of walls **20, 20'**. The first attaching member **32** is generally elongated in a longitudinal orientation and extends from the base end **32'** to a distal end **36'** for a length of about ten inches to about twenty inches. A preferred length for the first and second attaching members **32, 34** is about eighteen inches from the respective base ends **32', 34'** to the respective distal ends **36', 36"**.

[0013] A preferred angle of orientation between the respective interior surfaces of the side members **32, 34**, and between the respective interior surfaces **24"**, **26"** of the tile cover side segments **24, 26**, is approximately ninety degrees as illustrated at **28** in Figure 3. Alternate angles of orientation can be readily provided for covering side walls intersecting at a junction that is less than or greater than a ninety angle. The first and second attaching members **32, 34** are extended longitudinally above the ledge first and second surfaces **24", 26"**. The first and second attaching members **32, 34** have a length of between about ten inches to about twenty inches. A preferred length for the each attaching member **32, 34** is about eighteen inches in length. The first and second attaching members **32, 34**

are generally rigid and are preferably constructed of a metal having a sufficient thickness to allow bending at midline **36** in order to modify the angle of orientation of the respective attaching member **32, 34** to accommodate wall junctions that are curved or that intersect at an angle other than ninety degrees. Alternative materials for the attaching member **32, 34** can be selected from generally rigid polymeric materials that can be trimmed in length and width. The attaching members **32, 34** include a plurality of spaced apart connector holes **32", 32"', 34", 34"',** through which connectors **32''', 34'''** are inserted for attaching first attaching member **32** to side wall **20** and for attaching second attaching member **32** to side wall **20'**. The width of the attaching member **32, 34** is less than the overall width of ledge first and second surfaces **24", 26"** as illustrated by the setback distance **38'** in Figure 3 of approximately one-half inch to about seven-sixteenths inch from the distal ends of each respective tile cover side segments **24, 26**.

[0014] Additional benefits of the configuration of the ledge and tile cover **22** include the following elements that provide protection from impacts for the corner tiles **14, 16**. The upper portion of each tile is protected by the ledge surfaces **24", 26"** that are laterally extended as illustrated by offset **38** in Figure 3, for approximately one-half inch to about five-eighths inch from the base ends **32', 34'** of the edge guard **30**. A

preferred offset **38** is about nine-sixteenths of an inch. The tile cover **22** includes tile cover side segments **24, 26** that are extended from outer corner edge **22'** in generally opposing directions in a substantially ninety degree orientation for covering of each corner tile **14, 16**. The width of extension of the side segments **24, 26** from corner edge **22'** can range from about two inches to about three inches. Alternative embodiments having greater widths for side segments **24, 26** are readily provided in order to also provide tile protection for various widths of adjacently positioned tiles **14', 16'** (see Fig. 1). A depth of about one-half inch to about five-eighths inch provides an adequate offset **38** to allow the exterior faced surfaces **24', 26'** to cover the tiles **14, 16** while being set apart from the respective outwardly faced surfaces of each base **32', 34'** of the edge guard **30** installed along a portion of the intersection **18** of walls **20, 20'**. The downward length extension of each side segment **24, 26** is selected to match the general height of the tiles **14, 16** being covered, minus about an inch in length to accommodate tiles that are curved outwards as illustrated at **12** in Figure 6.

[0015] The tile cover **22** is preferably composed of a generally continuous layer of metal having a thickness of approximately 18 gauge steel. Alternative gauges and materials for tile cover **22** and/or edge guard **30** can be utilized to provide a generally rigid guard while allowing cutting to various sizes. The preferred material is stainless steel in order to provide a

protective cover for the tiles **14, 16**, while providing aesthetically pleasing exterior surfaces and also allowing for limited trimming and bending to accommodate curved, squared, or multi-faceted corner tiles (not shown).

[0016] The positioning and orientation of the corner guard **10** provides protection for the tiles **14, 16** from being impacted by cart wheels **50**. The orientation of the tile cover exterior surfaces **24', 26'** have an adequate offset **38** from the respective connecting members **32, 34** to cover a variety of widths of the upper portions of tiles **14, 16** installed at the corner junction **12**. Additional benefits provided by the corner guard **10** include an easily installed device for covering tiles **12, 14** adjacently disposed at a corner junction **12** of two adjacent walls **20, 20'** composed of plasterboard or similar building materials. Further, the corner guard **10** is composed of a generally rigid material such as metal that can be appropriately bent and angled to protectively cover the tiles **12, 14** regardless of whether the angle of separation of the respective tiles is greater than, or smaller than about ninety degrees. In addition, if the tiles covering the corner junction are arcuately shaped, the curvature of the tile cover **22** can be adjusted by bending each side segment **24, 26** to a curvature that provides for adequate coverage of each tile **14, 16** connected at corner junction **12**.

[0017] While the present invention has been illustrated by description

of several embodiments and while the illustrative embodiments have been described in considerable detail, it is not the intention of the applicant to restrict or in any way limit the scope of the appended claims to such detail. Additional advantages and modifications will readily appear to those skilled in the art. The invention in its broader aspects is therefore not limited to the specific details, representative apparatus and methods, and illustrative examples shown and described. Accordingly, departures may be made from such details without departing from the spirit or scope of applicant's general inventive concept.